



NEWS RELEASE

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DEAN CHURCHILL NAMED MAINE'S 2006 FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION BY THE SBA

Augusta, Maine -- Dean R. Churchill, Business and Cooperative Loan Specialist, with the U. S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD), will receive the 2006 U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Financial Services Champion Award for the State of Maine. Michael Aube, State Director, USDA-RD, nominated Churchill for this award.

"Dean Churchill's commitment and dedication to Maine's rural businesses ensures they have access to the capital they need to start and expand and that rural communities have the resources they need to develop their infrastructure. It's those qualities that we look for when we choose the financial services champion," said Charles E. Summers, New England Regional Administrator for the SBA.

During Churchill's career with USDA-RD he has assisted over 500 businesses. This work helped to create or save 1600 jobs in rural Maine. Churchill provides guidance to organizations which enables them to secure funding. These federal funds are used to support community and economic development efforts throughout Maine.

Rural Development State Director Michael W Aube commented, "The exemplary attitude and devotion to improving the quality of life of Maine's rural population is a quality I am pleased to recognize in Dean Churchill. He is an asset to our staff and to the future rural Maine businesses and has truly earned this award."

"I've had the pleasure of working with Dean for over three years," said Telford Allen, III, Chairman of the Board at Telford Aviation in Bangor. "His professional attitude and responsive nature has been extremely valuable as our industry has seen various changes, some of which necessitated a government guaranteed loan," added Allen.

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Churchill will be honored at an SBA celebration dinner May 24th at Spectacular Event Center in Bangor. For further information on the award recipients or celebration, please contact Bonnie Erickson at the Maine District Office, 622-8275 or bonnie.erickson@sba.gov.